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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/052,240	01/17/2002	Philippe Georges Castel	DP-301665	8028
7590 04/05/2004			EXAMINER	
SCOTT A. MCBAIN DELPHI TECHNOLOGIES, INC. Legal Staff, Mail Code: 480-414-420 P.O. Box 5052 Troy, MI 48007-5052			LOPEZ, FRANK D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3745	15
DATE MAILED: 04/05/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/052,240

Applicant(s)

CASTEL, PHILIPPE GEORGES

Examiner

F. Daniel Lopez

Art Unit

3745

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 January 2004.  
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.  
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 29-49 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
6) ☒ Claim(s) 29-49 is/are rejected.  
7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 January 2002 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on January 21, 2004 has been entered.

***Drawings***

Fig 3 appears to be wrong, since neither the flat head nor the plunger are shown moved to absorb the material displaced by the deformations of the reaction disc 96 (see objection to the specification, below)

***Specification***

The disclosure is objected to because of the following: on page 11 line 4-9 "pressure on the inner surface 98 applies a thrust force...to the sleeve 86 which is displaced..., in opposition to the conical washer 90 in the direction F2. This displacement...creates inside the sleeve...an annular cavity 104 (FIG. 4) filled by the material displaced by the deformations of the reaction disc 96" appears to contradict the drawings. Fig 2 shows that the reaction disc 96 fills the sleeve from the inner surface (98) of the flange (94) to the flat head (84), which abuts against a shoulder (not numbered). As the sleeve moves toward the bearing surface (74), an annular cavity (104, fig 3) is formed; but the material displaced by the deformations of the reaction disc 96 can not fill in there, since the disc is in the space before the movement (as clearly shown in fig 2). It would appear that the material displaced by the deformations of the reaction disc 96 fills in to move either the plunger (22), or the flat head (84). Fig 3 appears to be wrong, based on the above discussion, since neither the flat head nor the plunger are shown moved to absorb the material displaced by the deformations of the reaction disc 96. Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

Claims 29-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 29 line 17-18, claim 40 line 14-15 and claim 49 line 7-8 "said deformation absorbed by a (an axial) distance between an internal surface of the disc and the annular flange" appears to be supported by the portion of the specification discussed above in the objection to the specification; and therefore appears to be wrong. It would appear that the deformation is absorbed by movement of the flat head or the plunger.

Claims 30-34 are indefinite, since they depend (either directly or indirectly) from canceled claim 28

Claims not discussed are indefinite, since they depend from one of the above mentioned claims.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

Claim 40, 41, 44, 45, and 47-49, inasmuch as they are definite, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Gauthier. The flange (forming inner surface 34) forms a bearing surface for the springs (36).

Claim 40 and 45-49, inasmuch as they are definite, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Tsubouchi et al. The flange (part of 16) forms a bearing surface for the reaction disc (14).

Claim 49 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by any one of Tobisawa (note annular flange on 31) or Inoue et al (note annular flange 151a).

***Conclusion***

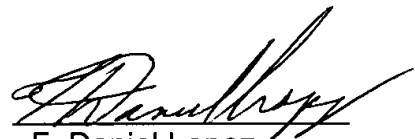
Claims 29 and 35-39 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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Claims 42 and 43 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dan Lopez whose telephone number is (703) 308-0008. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 6:30 AM -4:00 PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ed Look, can be reached on (703) 308-1044. The fax number for this group is (703) 872-9302. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0861.



F. Daniel Lopez  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3745  
April 2, 2004